

MINUTES
MARION CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, June 12, 6:15 P.M.

At 6:15 p.m., Mayor Ashley Brady called the Public Hearing to order. ***Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to open the Public Hearing, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.***

Mayor Brady stated that Council previously had the 1st Reading on the 2018-19 budget. He inquired if there were any questions regarding the budget, to which no one had any questions. Mayor Brady commented that will be a tax increase of 3 mills, which will be used for pay increases for the Marion Fire Department and the Marion Police Department. The 2nd Reading on the budget will be held at the regular council meeting immediately following this Public Hearing. With nothing further to discuss, ***Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried unanimously.***

MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, June 12, 6:30 P.M

MAYOR/COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT

Mayor Ashley Brady

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt

Councilman Ralph Atkinson

Councilman Ronald Atkinson

Councilman Michael Baker

Councilman Joseph Frazier

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis

STAFF PRESENT:

Alan Ammons, City Administrator

Patricia Brown, City Treasurer

James Brogdon, City Attorney

Pam Jones, Substitute Clerk

Lt. Tony Flowers

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He welcomed citizens and guests and encouraged all to come out to the monthly council meeting.

2. PRAYER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Brady gave the opening prayer and Mr. Alan Ammons led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. WELCOME CITIZENS, GUESTS & PRESS

Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests, and the press (Hometown TV 8).

4. APPROVE MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING May 8, 2018 AND SPECIAL MEETING June 5, 2018

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on May 8, 2018 and the Special Meeting on June 5, 2018. Councilman Michael Baker offered a second, and the motion passed unanimously.

5. MAY EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Michael Gause from the Public Works Department was named May Employee of the Month and presented with a gift certificate.

6. Fans of America – Mr. Thomas Soukup gave a presentation of plans to establish help for our veterans. His group is interested in the Heritage Sportswear property and gave an impressive list of amenities they would like to establish for veterans; housing, job training, medical assistance, to name a few. It will be a \$10-15 million dollar investment, with 75-100 jobs. This facility would be the model for the country and will be the hub station for all groups involved. It will be ready for use in one year. *Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to write a letter of support for this project, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried 6-1, with Councilman Ralph Atkinson voting no.*

7. Re-appoint Lisa Seabrook and Sallie Davis to the 'Housing Authority of Marion' Board

Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to re-appoint Lisa Seabrook and Sallie Davis to the Housing Authority of Marion board, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried unanimously.

8. 2nd READING ON ORDINANCE 18-01, AN ORDINANCE TO SET MILLAGE FOR RAISING FUNDS AND TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF MARION, FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to accept 2nd Reading of Ordinance 18-01, An Ordinance to Set Millage for the City of Marion, Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker and carried unanimously.

9. 2nd READING ON ORDINANCE 18-02, AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE LOCAL HOSPITALITY REVENUE FOR THE CITY OF MARION FOR THE 2018-19 FISCAL YEAR

Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to accept 2nd Reading of Ordinance 18-02, An Ordinance to Appropriate Local Hospitality Revenue for the City of Marion for the 2018-19 Fiscal Year. Councilman Joseph Frazier offered a second and the motion carried unanimously.

10. ADMISTRATOR'S REPORT:

a. Update on Energy Survey – Consultants came last week and went to every City owned building, took measurements and checked all light fixtures. They are putting together a proposal to upgrade to LED lighting and will bring a package to Council in the next 30-45 days.

b. Update on Nuisance Properties – We are now getting to some of the nuisance houses and are clearing out about one per week. It's an all day job with 4-5 people working on it. We have a list of properties we will be taking down.

c. Miscellaneous – A private contractor gave us an estimate of \$30,000 to demo Thomas Trailer Park. However, the property owner has been working to clean it up and there are only 2.5 mobile homes standing. Councilman Hunt commented that since the owner was

making the effort to clean up, he should not be penalized. Mr. Ammons also got an estimate of \$10,000 to clean up the Coastal Oil property. Councilman Frazier thanked the City and County for cleaning up the Blumenthal property. Mayor Brady stated that since property owner of Thomas Trailer Park was making progress in cleaning the property up, the City should not obligate themselves to spend \$30,000. Councilman Frazier expressed his displeasure concerning the amount of time it has taken to clean this property up and does not understand the favoritism being shown to this property owner and if the City has to spend the money, then spend the money. Mayor Pro-tem Hunt responded that there were only 2 ½ trailers left and it can't be justified to spend \$30,000 for cleanup. Councilman Frazier insisted that the City get another bid on the cleanup. Mayor Brady stated that by the time Council meets again, the property will be cleaned up and there is no need to send a contractor to get another estimate. Councilman Frazier repeated his request for another bid and said, "You people are playing games with these people and I don't understand it. They must be doing something for you, they definitely got to be."

Mr. Ammons stated that the City has started with the mosquito spraying. Debris removal continues.

11. CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

12. DISTRICT AND CITY UPDATES FROM MAYOR AND COUNCIL

Mayor Brady commented that we applied for and received two grants; one for \$50,000 for a grappler truck and another for \$50,000 for four new trucks for the Public Works Department. ***Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to accept a \$50,000 grant from the USDA for four pickup trucks for the Public Works Department, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt. The motion carried unanimously. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to accept a \$50,000 grant from the USDA for a grappler truck for the Public Works Department, seconded by Councilman Michael Baker. The motion carried unanimously.*** Mayor Brady commented that the City of Marion is going to apply for two

Capital Sales Tax projects; The Green Street Sports Complex expansion for \$3.8 million (includes 2 soccer fields, football field, baseball field, indoor batting cage facility, restrooms, lighting and also acquiring the old Pepsi Cola property, which can be used for storing all equipment used at Green Street) and renovation of City Hall for \$480,000 to bring it up to ADA Compliance. The County will have three readings on the Capital Sales Tax referendum and by August 15th the chosen projects will go on the November ballot. The City and County have been working together to clean up the Blumenthal property. The property is now with the Land Forfeiture Commission and will eventually go to the County. The summer camp at Grice's is now open, as is the pool. There will be a baseball tournament June 22nd at the Green Street Complex. Mayor Brady invited everyone to attend. These events are one of the reasons for expanding Green Street Sports Complex. Tournaments draw in people from across the state and brings in more revenue. We have removed three trees from Main Street, near Liberty Street and Duke Progress will remove three more on South Main Street, near Sav-Way.

Councilman Michael Baker commented that he and Mr. Ammons had taken care of most issues in his area.

Councilman Joseph Frazier commented that Mr. Ammons was doing a great job in his area. Mr. Ammons commented that they would be taking down the property on Mullins Street and then Gibson. They are cleaning up one property a week. Councilman Frazier commented that the old hotel had been sold and the new owners were planning to renovate

Councilman Ronald Atkinson has talked to Mr. Ammons about his concerns.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comment at this time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis thanked the VFW Post 10 for being attendance at the Council meeting and also Mr. Soukup for his interest in Marion and in his plans for helping our veterans.

Mayor Pro-tem Emerson also thanked the VFW Post 10 for being at the meeting and most importantly, for their service.

Everyone in the Chambers gave our Vets a round of applause. Mayor Brady thanked them for their service

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson to go into Executive Session for a Personnel Matter regarding the City Clerk and a Personnel Matter regarding the Police Department. Councilman Ronald Atkinson seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

14. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Returning from executive session, a motion was made by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to return to regular session, seconded by Councilman Ralph Atkinson. The motion passed unanimously. Mayor Ashley Brady stated that there was no action taken during executive session. *Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to offer the City Clerk job to Gwendolyn Davis, seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson. The motion carried unanimously.*

15. ADJOURNMENT

Having no further business to discuss, a motion was made by Councilman Michael Baker, seconded by Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Substitute Clerk Pam Jones
Taped: June 12, 2018